

When our men and women in uniform initially crossed the burm in Iraq, fewer than 40 percent of their vehicles were armored. Today, thanks to the hard work of the men and women like those at Rock Island Arsenal, we are well on our way to having every vehicle armored. Since December 19th of last year, Rock Island has produced more than 2,500 full armor kits for Humvees that were sent to Iraq—many of which were installed in theater by the very men and women who built the armor. Our Nation owes great thanks to the men and women of Rock Island Arsenal. Their hard work and dedication is giving soldiers protection and enabling them to return home to their families.

While I am pleased that we are on our way to successfully armoring our vehicles, it does not make up for the fact that many, many men and women in uniform died when they could have been protected by properly armored vehicles. I am pleased that the House Armed Services Committee has been able to work in a bipartisan manner to give our soldiers and marines in theater better force protection measures, but this should not have had to happen after our soldiers were already in theater. When we use our forces, we need to ensure that they have adequate equipment, the best information and technology, and the best training possible.

Our men and women in uniform, like Lance Corporal Torres was, are among the best and the brightest that our Nation has to offer. They are our sons and daughters, our fathers and mothers, our friends and neighbors. As a veteran and as a proud American, I pledge to offer my continued support to ensure that our men and women in uniform have what they need to do their jobs and return home safely.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE FORRESTER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Debbie Forrester and recognize her for her outstanding achievements playing handball over the years. She is an amazing handball athlete with a very impressive history of tournament play and it is with great satisfaction that I am able to acknowledge her accomplishments before this body of Congress and nation today.

Debbie started playing handball twenty-two years ago and since then has been national runner-up several times in both singles and doubles before winning the national championship last year. Debbie was ranked seventh in the world in the "open" division, and won three national titles in that division. As a long-time resident of Western Colorado, Debbie has used her handball skill to make friends and build community relationships among her fellow citizens. Debbie's husband, Kim, was also a nationally ranked handball player as well at one point, and the two of them entered many doubles tournaments together.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Debbie Forrester is an exceptional handball player,

who uses her talents to educate and entertain interested citizens. Helping kids to get involved in sports is fundamental to a healthy childhood and I greatly appreciate Debbie's role in that process. It is my privilege to honor Debbie for her handball achievements and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILMINGTON, CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate today the 100th anniversary of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Wilmington is known, thanks to our local chamber, as the "Heart of the Harbor," and is our nation's gateway to the Pacific and beyond. The business members of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce serve one of our country's most vital economic engines, the Port of Los Angeles. The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce enhances the local business environment and helps to improve the quality of life in our community.

The chamber's work builds on a long and auspicious history for the local community. When Phineas Banning founded Wilmington in 1858, he could hardly have imagined the impact that this small community would eventually come to have on the rest of the world. The second post office in Los Angeles County was opened here, and Wilmington was the lifeline to 215 army posts scattered throughout Arizona and New Mexico during the Civil War. Wilmington was no less important during the Second World War, when Navy ships were built on Terminal Island and contributed to winning the war in the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce on 100 years of remarkable service to the Wilmington community and the nation. I wish the Wilmington business community many more years of success.

COMMENDATION TO RACHEL HEATH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend my warmest commendation to Rachel Heath for her nearly 22 years of service to the Borough of Franklin, New Jersey.

For the past 22 years, Rachel has worked for the people of Franklin in various capacities—as Welfare Director, Accounts Payable Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and, for the past eight years, Borough Clerk and Administrator.

Though the job titles varied, all of the positions shared one element in common: service to the citizens of Franklin. As Welfare Director,

Rachel aided residents in obtaining much-needed assistance to help them through difficult times. As Accounts Payable Clerk, Rachel helped ensure that the borough's finances ran smoothly. And during her time in the borough Clerk's office—first as Deputy Clerk and then as Borough Clerk and Administrator—Rachel handled everything from pet licenses to marriage licenses, birth certificates to death certificates, voting registration to elections oversight.

While all of these accomplishments are certainly noteworthy, perhaps the most remarkable tribute to Rachel is that she did these things while raising four children and being a wife to her husband of almost 35 years, Thomas. In and of itself, the work of a wife and mother goes well beyond a full-time job, yet Rachel found the strength and ability to serve both her family and her community.

As Rachel concludes one chapter of her life and commences the next, I applaud her past service and wish her a future filled with continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY AND BUTCH LONGMORE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise to pay tribute to Butch and Sandy Longmore of Montrose, Colorado. For many years, they have been taking foster children into their home and providing a positive influence in the foster children's lives. As foster parents, they have shown tremendous compassion and commitment to the Montrose youth. I am honored to acknowledge this exceptional couple before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Over the last twenty-two years, the Longmores have taken in over 150 foster children. Depending on the circumstances, the foster child stays for a period ranging from a week to several months. In seven different cases, the Longmores have adopted one of the children they were temporarily housing. In addition to their seven adopted children, the Longmores have four children of their own. In recognition of their efforts, the Colorado State Foster Parent Association recently honored the Longmores as the May recipients of the Colorado Foster Parents of the Month. Butch and Sandy are compassionate and caring individuals that obviously take great interest in providing care to young individuals that have difficult situations to overcome.

Mr. Speaker, Butch and Sandy Longmore have truly distinguished themselves as outstanding individuals. They understand the community's commitment to raising the next generation of citizens, and, in assuming that responsibility, have positively changed foster children's lives. I thank Butch and Sandy for their hard work and dedication and I wish them the all the best in their future endeavors.